

Table 1

FUEL LOAD REDUCTION PROGRAM
PRE-FIRE PROTECTION PLANNER
NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER RANGER UNIT

PERSONAL SERVICES:

	Qty	Classification	Months	Period	Monthly Rate	Total Salary	Benefit Rate	TOTAL
							39.22%	
FIRE PREVENTION	3	FC	12.0	7/1-6/30	\$4,842	\$174,312	\$68,365	\$242,677
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERIOD-Planned OT	3	FC	5.0	7/1-6/30	\$871	\$13,065	15.81% \$2,066	\$15,131
Unplanned Overtime						\$ 3,300	n/a	\$ 3,300
Subtotal Personal Services:								\$261,108

OPERATING EXPENSE:

	Type	Period	No.	Mos.	Rate	Total	Benefit Rate	Total
Uniform Allowance	Full-time	7/1-6/30	3	12	\$ 800	\$ 2,400	15.81% \$ 379	\$ 2,779
Communications Nevada-Yuba-Placer R.U.	Type	Period	Units	Mos.	Rate	Total		
	Mobile	7/1-6/30	3	12	\$ 9.63	\$ 348.68		
Vehicles Sedan (state-owned)	No.	Type	Miles		Rate	Total		
	3	Sedan	12,000		0.30 per mi.	\$ 10,800		
Office Equipment					2100	\$ 2,100.00		
Training (Fire Prot. Planning)					\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000		
Subtotal Operating Expense:								\$ 19,026
Subtotal Personal Services & Operating Expense -								\$ 280,134

10 NEVADA – YUBA - PLACER FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT PROPOSAL (# 1 Priority Project)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: All of the field projects identified in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer *Pre-fire Management Plan* identify the need for a chipper. In the NYP CDF Unit, the chipper will provide support to the homeowners that do the clearing around their structures as required by the Public Resources Code (PRC 4291) and be utilized to reduce the material removed from the shaded fuel breaks to a manageable size.

Once the homeowners accomplish their necessary 4291 clearance, they need a way to dispose of the vegetative waste that is created. The current options are: burn it, haul it to a disposal site, pile it and allow it to turn to mulch, or hire a contractor to dispose of it. Additionally, studies have shown that defensible space and construction materials have the greatest effect on a structure's survival of a wildland fire. This project directly affects defensible space and will have the most effect in reducing structure damage or loss in wildfires.

The Fire Plan assessment process has identified debris escapes as the leading cause of ignitions throughout the Unit. This debris burning results in an increased fire risk and diminishes the air quality, both of which are potentially hazardous to the public. As the rural population continues to grow throughout the Unit, both air quality and fire risk are going to become bigger issues. The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Placer County Air Pollution Control District, and the Feather River AQMD all strongly support the use of a chipper program to accomplish the required fuels reduction.

Another problem inherent to an increasing population is that of waste disposal. Currently our landfills are becoming overburdened with waste. The addition of vegetative waste only compounds the problem. One advantage of the chipper program is that it reduces the volume of the vegetative material and also expedites the process of natural breakdown. The Nevada-Yuba-Placer *Pre-fire Management Plan* designates that the chips created in this process will be distributed back onto the property of origin allowing the landowners to utilize the material as they see fit. Dispersion of the chipped material back onto the site also reduces the germination of annual grasses and the sprouting of brush.

Many landowners have constructed piles from the material they removed. However, due to the restriction of burn days and the cost and labor requirements to haul it away they just allow the piles to sit and decompose naturally. This system is beneficial in that it does not reduce air quality; however, it does create many heavy pockets of dead fuel available to an encroaching fire. These pockets of fuel can have an adverse effect on fire behavior. A slow moving ground fire burning into one of these piles will increase the potential for spotting and hamper control efforts. Depending on the placement of the piles, there is an increased chance for torching nearby trees and other vegetation.

The final option for the landowners is for them to hire a private contractor to dispose of the vegetation. The contractor would, most likely, use one of the methods mentioned above, so the ultimate effects are unchanged. Of the options mentioned above, chipping the material is the most preferable in relation to the fire hazard and air quality. Currently, the costs of chipping make it unfeasible for many small landowners. Each landowner has to pay a "Haul-in" or "Setup" fee and are generally required to pay for a minimum of one hour when using a private contractor.

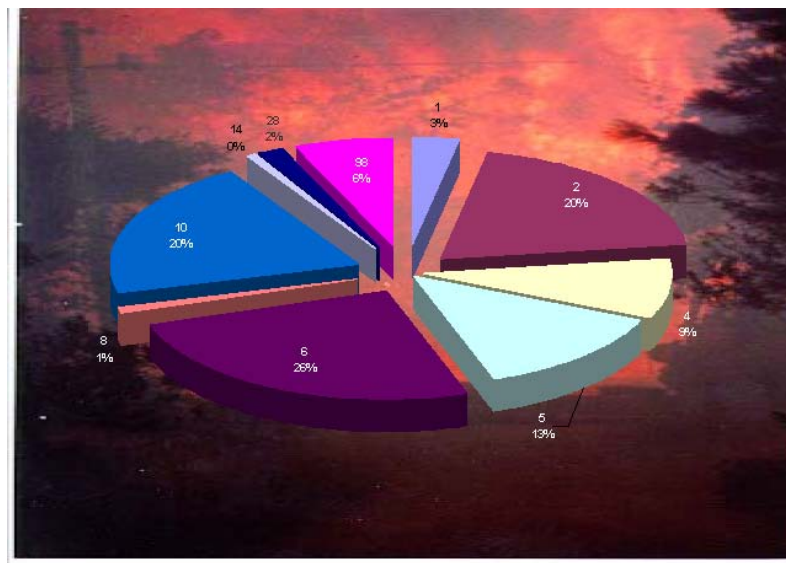
Coordinators are currently overseeing chipping programs throughout Nevada and Placer Counties. These programs are a result of many funding sources working together to accomplish fuels reduction work where it is most beneficial and manageable. The

Coordinators group landowners that are in close proximity to each other and make the arrangements for a chipper crew to respond. The initial work provided through these programs allow for the removal of the old, decadent material that has become established over the last 100 years of fire suppression. Once this build-up of fuels is eliminated the landowners will be better able to deal with the fuels on an annual basis. It is the Unit's expectation that once it is shown how beneficial this project is to individual neighborhoods, those areas will utilize the process on their own as a method of maintaining the required clearance around structures. In addition, this program would encourage people to do their PRC 4291 required clearing that would not have done it voluntarily as now there is a method of disposing of the cut material.

The fuel models in the area are displayed in figure 1 below. As is evident from the chart, nearly fifty percent of the fuels are in brush models. The fuel model 10 in this area also has a heavy brush component in the understory. So far the fuels around more than 9,500 homes have been modified from the brush models to a fuel model 8. A wildland fire that now encroaches on these homes will experience a significant reduction in fire behavior. It is estimated that there are still over 140,000 properties in the Unit requiring inspections. Of those approximately 130,000 will require brush disposal. By encouraging those property owners to meet PRC 4291, we will effectively treat a minimum of 20,000 acres within the Unit. This treatment will affect the fuels immediately adjacent to homes. Many studies have shown this combined with building construction measures to be the most effective treatments for protecting structures during a wildfire.

8.1 Estimated Project Cost \$2,750,000

Chipping programs have been successfully operating in each of the three counties for two or more years. Even though these programs are separate and operated in various fashions, the overall results remain the same.



Nevada County – The fuels reduction program within Nevada got its start through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program (HGMP). We initially received approval for approximately \$600,000 to create fuel breaks and provide chipping services to specific areas within the County. This program sparked the interest of many of the residents that lived outside of the identified project areas and they immediately began requesting that the same service become available throughout the County. The following year we were able to accomplish that through \$22,000 of Fuels Reduction funds provided by CDF through the Fuels Reduction Program. Those funds introduced many residents to the Chipping Program and resulted in a demand that was greater than we could have hoped for. To date the Chipper Program has resulted in the treatment of over 2,917 residences by processing in excess of 208,000 cubic yds of fuels at those residences. We have also treated over 80 acres along more than eight miles of roads by removing more than 1,200 tons of vegetative fuels to create roadside fuels reduction areas. We have continued the program over the years through funds from a variety of sources including but not limited to: WUI Grants (\$216,000), Forest Stewardship Grant (\$165,000), BLM (\$228,000), USFS (\$220,000, Northern Sierra AQMD (\$75,000), Nevada County (\$129,000), Allstate Insurance (\$33,000), Proposition 40 Funds (\$235,000) in 05-06 FY, and a number of home-owner associations (\$45,000). Through Prop 204 (\$125,000) over 300 acres were treated by our cooperators.

Placer County – Initial fuels reduction efforts in Placer County were undertaken as an outcome of the settlement between Placer County and Pacific Gas & Electric. Approximately \$271,000 was set aside to reduce the fuel loading within the County. We utilized that as start up money to initiate the Residential Chipper Program within the County. To date the Chipper Program has resulted in the treatment of over 9832 residences by processing in excess of 41,698 tons of fuels at those residences. We have also treated over 150 acres along more than 40 miles of roads removing over 5,100 tons of vegetative fuels to create roadside fuels reduction areas. These areas will allow for reduced fire behavior along the roadways in times of fire emergencies. The program has been able to continue with the application of funds provided through Proposition 204 (\$252,000), Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grants \$(210,000), Placer County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) \$(65,000).

Yuba County - The fuel reduction efforts in Yuba County have been directed primarily at large landowners. Approximately \$966,000 has been spent treating parcels ten acres and larger. These funds were obtained by the Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council through Prop 204 monies. NYP has established a contract with the Dobbins-Oregon House Fire Department to provide chipping services throughout the foothill communities of Yuba County. By July 1, 2005 residential chipping services should be in place. These additional services will be dependent on Proposition 40 funding

11. AUBURN FUEL BREAK

This project is within the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) Fire Management Plan